

James C. Kearney, III has given us a model of true dedication and virtue.

SPECIALIST RAYMOND L. WHITE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Elwood, IN. Specialist Raymond L. White, 22 years old, died on November 12 during an ambush in Baghdad, Iraq. Choosing not to hide within the safety of the armored Humvee in which he was riding, Raymond returned fire. During this selfless attempt to protect other members of his company, Raymond was shot. With his entire life before him, Raymond risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2001 graduate of Frankton Junior-Senior High School, Raymond went on to attend the New Mexico Military Institute for 2 years before following a long-standing family tradition of joining the military. According to friends and loved ones, Raymond was pleased to follow in the footsteps of his father, uncle and great-uncle. His mother Sharon recalled to the Indianapolis Star a time when she asked Raymond why he wanted to go to Iraq. He responded simply, "Well, Mom, it's my patriotic duty."

Raymond was the thirty-sixth Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. This brave young soldier leaves behind his parents, Sharon and Henry White and his brothers, Henry, Daniel and Jessie.

Today, I join Raymond's family, his friends and the entire Elwood community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Raymond, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Raymond was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. When looking back on Raymond's life, family friend Don Cox told the Indianapolis Star that "He grew up to be a very fine young man." His father, Henry, recounted to the Indianapolis Star the description of Raymond's heroic efforts that he received from his commander, highlighting the fact that his son had died in the same fashion in which he had lived. "He always put others first," Henry said. Today and always, Raymond will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Raymond's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we

cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Raymond's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Raymond L. White in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Raymond's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Raymond.

FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWARD IWAN

Mr. HAGEL. I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Edward Iwan of Albion, NE, a 1LT in the United States Army. First Lieutenant Iwan was killed on November 12, 2004 in Fallujah, Iraq when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Army vehicle. He was 28 years old.

First Lieutenant Iwan grew up on his family's farm in Albion and enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from Albion High School in 1994. After serving 3 years, he joined the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln where he earned a degree in criminal justice and received a commission in the U.S. Army. At Lincoln, he was a leader in the ROTC program. First Lieutenant Iwan was a platoon leader in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division who will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like 1LT Iwan are currently serving in Iraq.

Lieutenant Iwan is survived by his parents, Donna and Kenneth Iwan of Albion and two sisters, Ginger and Kate. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Edward Iwan's service and mourns his loss.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring 1LT Edward Iwan.

RETIREMENT OF SENATORS

SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to Senator JOHN

EDWARDS and acknowledge his dedication to fighting for the middle class.

Senator EDWARDS, the son of a mill worker, was the first in his family to go to college. He then went on to law school where he met his wife, Elizabeth. Following his graduation from law school, he earned a reputation as one of the best trial attorneys in the country, taking on the causes of those who had suffered serious tragedies as a result of the negligence or malfeasance of others.

Elected in 1998, Senator EDWARDS has served just one term in the Senate, but he made a mark in a number of areas. First and foremost, he was a lead advocate for a Patients' Bill of Rights. From his background helping families that had suffered injuries at the hands of our health care system, Senator EDWARDS brought a passionate understanding of the need to hold health insurance companies accountable when their decisions led to serious injuries or death. More importantly, he championed changes in rules that would prevent these adverse outcomes in the first place. His dedication to this cause paid off in 2001, when the Senate finally passed the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Senator EDWARDS also made a big contribution on education policy. He was an early voice in favor of education reform, and worked to provide additional resources to help local schools achieve higher standards. As a co-chair of the Senate Rural Education Caucus, I saw first hand his work to support funding to meet rural school needs like the Rural Education Achievement Program and to make certain that the unique challenges for rural schools in complying with the No Child Left Behind Act are recognized.

Senator EDWARDS also, of course, distinguished himself in running for President and serving as the Democratic nominee to be Vice President. His concern about our country fracturing into "Two Americas"—one wealthy and privileged, the other increasingly left behind—resonated with millions of Americans.

Senator EDWARDS is leaving this body. But I am confident he will not turn his back on public service and look forward to his continued contribution to our Nation's political debate. Working with the Senator from North Carolina has been a joy, and we wish him and his wife a happy and health future.

SENATOR DON NICKLES

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to and acknowledge how much I will miss Senator DON NICKLES in the United States Senate.

Since joining the Senate in 1980, Senator NICKLES has been a forceful advocate for smaller and smarter government, while at the same time tenaciously fighting for the interests of the people of Oklahoma. In a body filled largely with lawyers and career politicians, Senator NICKLES brought a small businessman's perspective to the legislative table. Throughout his career he